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7 December 1998
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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 7 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 16 and 30 November 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations and damage caused, 16-30 November 1998

1. In the northern region 98 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Sinjar and Ayn Zalah.

2. In the southern region 752 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Shatrah, Maymunah, Rifa'i, Kut, Mu'aniyah, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Umm Qasr, Safwan, Ali al-Gharbi, Abu Sukhayr, Najaf, Nu'maniyah, Nukhayb, Lasaf, Afak, Hayy, Qal'at Sukkar, Ali al-Sharqi, Tirbil, Naza'im, Mukr al-Na'am and Shaykh Sa'd.

3. Ten violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1645 hours on 13 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

5. At 1625 and 1635 hours on 14 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

6. At 1218 hours on 16 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

7. At 1230 hours on 16 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Saddam dam.

8. At 0935 hours on 17 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

9. At 1135 and 1140 hours on 18 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

10. At 0905, 1105, 1317 and 1645 hours on 19 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

11. At 1345, 1445 and 1500 hours on 25 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

12. At 1120 hours on 29 November, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace 30 kilometres south of Samawah.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 7 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 1 December 1998 (A/53/724-S/1998/1145), I have the honour to draw your attention to a new violation of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 1 December 1998.

On that day, one C-130 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by flying over the area of Karpasia, exiting thereafter in a south-easterly direction.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and at the same time are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest this new provocative act by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. I underline that such violations occur on almost a daily basis. The frequency and intensity of airspace violations are a further reminder of Turkey's offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative